

Emergency Preparedness & the ADA

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**This Presentation Is
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Effective Communication

A **public entity** shall take appropriate steps to ensure that **communications** with **applicants, participants, members of the public, and companions** with **disabilities** are **as effective as communications with others**.

Auxiliary Aids and Services

1. ADA Definition of AA&S:
 - A. Qualified interpreters or other effective methods of making aurally delivered materials available to individuals with hearing impairments
 - B. Qualified readers, taped texts, or other effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments
 - C. Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices
 - D. Other similar services and actions
2. T.II: Public entity must give “primary consideration to the requests of the individual with disabilities.”

Cost and Alternatives

1. Entity providing auxiliary aid or service must bear the cost unless it's an undue burden or fundamental alteration .
2. If providing a particular auxiliary aid or service would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden, the covered entity must provide an alternative, if one exists, so that effective communication is achieved to the maximum extent possible

INVOLVE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN PLANNING PROCESS

Before an Emergency

1. Designate a Disability and Access and Functional Needs Coordinator for the entire city and at each shelter.
2. Set up voluntary registry of people with disabilities who may need alternative forms of communication during an emergency.
3. Develop alternate format of documents that are routinely made available to shelter residents.
4. 504 covered websites must conform to WCAG 2.0 Level AA. All websites are recommended to conform to 2.0 AA.

During an Emergency

1. Emergency Survival Program available in alternate formats.
2. Emergency hotline operators trained in TTY and Relay calls.
3. Emergency Mass Notification System must be TTY compatible, and users can register to receive alerts through phone, text, email.
4. Door-to-door notifiers trained in communicating with individuals with communication disabilities, including procedures to notify deaf/blind individuals.
5. Make 9-1-1 accessible to everyone, no alternative phone numbers.

After an Emergency

1. Canvassing to identify critical needs of people with disabilities.
2. Document things that went well & things to improve.

Questions?

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